India believes that the CTBT should be an integral part of a nuclear disarmament process leading to total elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework.

Recovery of arms in Chennai

1848. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN:
SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM:
SHRI R. MARGABANDU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantities of arms and ammunitions were recovered near Madhavaram in Chennai recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested in connection therewith;

(c) whether the involvement of any foreign national or agency has been identified so far; and

(d) whether Government have instructed the Govemment of Tamil Nadu to have strict givil throughout the State to avert any untoward incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) According to the information received from Government of Tamil Nadu, no arms and ammunition were recovered at madhavaram. However, the following Explosive Substances were seized at a Transport Godown, Madhavaram:

(i) 6,240 Gelating Sticks in 15 Bundles;

(ii) 1,500 Detonators in one bundle.

(b) 13 persons have been arrested and sent for remand.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Police has been alerted to be on the vigil.

Misappropriation of public fund in Uttar Pradesh

1849. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the newsitem published in 'Jansatta' of 13th January, 1997 under the caption "Uttar Pradesh main Sarkari Dhan Ki Loot Mein Kohi Bhi Phichey Nahin";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action being taken in this regard against those persons who are found quilty/involved; and

(c) if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Improvement of conditions of prison

1850. SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued notices to Union and all State Governments asking for their response within three months on certain legislative and administative measures suggested by the Court to improve conditions of prisons and to provide better facilities to prisoners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Centre and all State Governments submitted their responses into the matter; and if so, the final outcome of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in its order dated 23.12.1996 has highlighted the prevailing conditions in the prisons and has reiterated the need to take action on some of the problems relating to streamlining of theremission system and parole, to deliberate about enacting of a new Prison Act to replace the old Indian Prison Act, 1894, to examine the question of framing of a model new All India Jail Manual, to improve medical facilities and hygienic conditions, to think about introduction of liberalisation of communication facilities, to take needful steps for streamlining of jail visits and to ruminate on the question of introduction of open air prisons in the districts headquarters of the country.

(c) The responses are required to be submitted within three months of the judgement.

Criteria for appointment of J.Es. in M.C.D.

1851. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for recruitment of Jr. Engineer (Civil) in the Govemment Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that direct recruitment of JEs (Civil) is being done in the Corporation, on the basis of marks obtained in various examinations without even verifiying the marksheets and other certificates ignoring the claims of the Work-Assistants and JEs already working on ad-hoc basis; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to do justice with such Work-Assistants and ad-hoc JEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The recruitment to the post of Junior Engineer (Civil) in municipal Corporation of Delhi and in other departments under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs in which such posts exist is made in accordance with the provisions laid down in the approved Recruitment Rules.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The certificates furnished by the selected candidates are verified before the appointment is offered to them. The Recruitment Rules for the post of Junior Engineer (Civil) provide for direct recruitment only. Work Assistant (Muster-Roil) and ad-hoc Junion Engineer (Civil) are therefore eligible to the considered for regular appointment to the grade only if they meet the requirement of age and other qualifications laid down in the relevant Recruitment Rules.

Powers given to investigative and enforcement agencies

1852. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in the Financial Express dated 24.11.1996 captioned "Govemment must strike a balance and not act as a Supercdp";

(b) whether un-fettered powers are being given to various investigative and enforcement agencies;

(c) the steps proposed to ensure moderation and safeguard the dignity of individuals by such agencies; and

(d) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to give unfettered powers to investigative and enforcement agencies.